

In the British checklist the species should follow *Dialectica imperialella* (Zeller) and in the numbering system of Bradley (2000) its number should be 311a.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Willy & Jurate de Prins for providing information and references.

References

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A very early record of the Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* Geoff. (Lep.: Pieridae) in the Isle of Wight

Brian Ransom saw a Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* on the exceptionally early date of 3 February at West High Down, Totland. On the same day two Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* L. were seen at Ventnor and a Peacock *Inachis io* (L.) at Porchfield. This is probably the earliest ever sighting of a Clouded Yellow in Britain. Whether it was a migrant or a home bred example remains a matter of conjecture although there were no migrant moths noted at the time and so it could have been a home bred example. This butterfly has been successfully overwintering along the South coast of the Island with the first imagines seen at the end of April. Barry Angell suggests that it could have hibernated in the nearby gorse thickets and Ian Rippey has the following comments: Regarding the speculation by Barry Angell about adult hibernation, there was a photo of an adult Clouded Yellow which appeared in the Butterfly conservation magazine *Butterfly Conservation News* (now called *Butterfly*) some years ago which was supposedly taken in February 1996 in mine adit in Cornwall. I also have an old book, *British Butterflies* by W. S. Coleman (Routledge, Warne & Routledge, 1860) which states 'The Clouded Yellow has been found hibernating in the chink of an old wall at the end of February, but I am not aware of its coming out again in the Spring, like the Brimstone'.

I should like to thank Ian Rippey and Barry Angell for their information and comments.— SAM KNILL-JONES, 1 Moorside, Moons Kill, Totland, Isle of Wight P039 OHU.